

U. S. SOLDIERS BARE CRUELTY IN ARMY 'BRIG'

House Committee Told One
Prison Camp Was Ruled by
Convicted Officer.

POOR FOOD AND SCARCE

Men Held on "A. W. L."
Charge Mention 2 Lieutenants
and 3 Sergeants.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Six former American soldiers testifying to-day before a special House committee investigating alleged cruelties to military prisoners in France declared that merciless assaults were committed without provocation on the prisoners by arrogant officers in charge of prisons and camps. Only one of the witnesses, all of whom were charged with being absent without leave, was convicted, the others having been acquitted or the charges dismissed. The "Batle," "The Stockade," "Prison Farm No. 2," and "Bianco Hotel," also known as "The Brig," were the places named by the witnesses as the scenes of the alleged cruelties, which were said to have extended over several months in 1918. Some of the officers in charge of the prison camps, it was said, had been convicted by court-martial and others were awaiting trial.

Leut. "Hardboiled" Smith, one of the prison camp officers, was mentioned frequently, while others named were Lieut. Mason and Sullivan and Sergeants Hall, Wolfner and Bush.

Didn't Try the General.
"Did they try the General in charge of the camp?" asked Chairman Rogers (R. D.), who left his seat in Congress to serve with the army abroad. "Not that any one heard," responded a witness.

When Lieut. "Hardboiled" Smith was tried at Tours early this year a hundred witnesses appeared against him, and he was convicted, testified Sidney Kemp, 179 West 144th street, New York, who was a corporal with Company F, 102d Engineers, Twenty-seventh Division.

"Fifty witnesses who I can name will verify everything said here, and will tell more too," asserted Kemp.

Several of the soldiers testified that in addition to being beaten, food in small amounts and of poor quality was supplied, and that the bedding was poor, sometimes the mattress being in mud under a small tent.

"A prisoner was smiling, and an officer says, 'Take that smile off, or I will,'" said H. Mendelberg, Baltimore, who served with Base Hospital 42, testified. "The officer did by rolling the man in the mud," Mendelberg added.

"Did you get that officer's name?" asked Representative Flood (Va.), Democrat. "I'm sorry I did not take his name," answered Mendelberg.

Poor Food Served to Men.
When telling of poor food, Mendelberg said that "if you asked for an extra piece of bread you were told 'Go to your back.'"

Menas, he and others said, consisted of stew made from canned beef, one slice of bread and part of a cup of coffee. Sometimes only the stew was served, witnesses said.

Charles Goldberg, 320 Central Park West, New York, a corporal in Company C, 24th Infantry, Third Division, said that while at the "brig" he was knocked down by an officer and one of his teeth knocked out when he refused to surrender his money belt. Drawing a blade, the officer and Goldberg fought a few minutes but the witness said he was forced to surrender because of the pain he suffered from blows on the arm.

"Once when I was scrubbing a floor a sergeant swung a club at my head every five seconds," testified Goldberg.

Paul Boggs, Baldwin, N. Y., 218 Field Signal Battalion, said men at the farm were often so hungry that they were glad to eat dirty potato peelings. He said that he dipped a tin cup in a will barrel to get some water, because that he would eat "with a relish."

"Instead of giving a command, it was generally given with a club," asserted Boggs, who said he saw at least fifty men beaten.

Beaten Every Five Minutes.
Alvin Bates, 42 Hawthorne street, Brooklyn, who was with the headquarters troops, Second Army, said when there was a formation, a man was beaten up every five minutes at the prison farm. He and Boggs said that a Pole, serving in the American Army, was brutally beaten and soon afterward the prisoner cut his throat with a razor.

"Medical inspection was a farce," said Bates, referring to the farm. "You went in one door and were kicked out another."

George L. Pallitto, 315 Walnut street, Newark, private in Company M, 118th Infantry, Twenty-ninth Division, testified that he became known as a "nut patient" after he had said he did not like a nurse.

Pallitto also told of many cruelties in the prisons in France, and admitted that he was absent without leave, for which he was sentenced.

The others said similar charges against them resulted when they were trying to reach their units, and they were acquitted or the charges dismissed.

U. S. ARMY CALLED
"GROGGY" AT FINISH

Could Not Have Lasted Month
More, Says Colonel.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—American soldiers in France were of superb spirit, but a bit "groggy" as an army when the armistice was signed, a House war investigating committee was told to-day by Col. Fred L. Huidekoper, formerly adjutant of the Thirty-third (Illinois) Division.

Col. Huidekoper said he was astounded by a statement made to him last January 6 by a Col. Cowan of General Headquarters, that the transportation situation on the battle front was so bad that the American army could not have kept on a month longer, and that if the German army had not been forced to Col. Cowan had been sent out to inspect the Thirty-third Division.

"I naturally assumed that he had ample justification for such a statement," said the witness.

"French officers," Col. Huidekoper added, "were of the opinion that American troops were not given the shelter and care that should have been given to men."

Replying to Chairman Johnson of South Dakota, the witness declared he would not say that "the high command paid no attention to sheltering the common soldiers."

Questioned as to lack of cooperation between the American and British high commands, Huidekoper told of two incidents when, he said, the commander of his division had been called upon to explain why American troops were used by the British, once at Hamel, July 4,

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1918, and again on August 9 at Chippa
Ridge. Then companies of American in-
fantry had been assigned for the Hamel
action, he said, but six were withdrawn
by Gen. Pershing. Orders withdrawing
the other four followed, but too late
to keep them out of the action.

Huidekoper also criticized the separation of American infantry from the
artillery with which it had trained.

Col. Huidekoper said the Thirty-third
Division had 5,000 casualties in the
Meuse-Argonne battle, and that failure
to get better artillery support at the
main German defense line increased the
divisions losses.

"Bundling" by officers also increased
the American casualties, the witness
said. Replying to Representative Flood
(Va.), Democrat, Col. Huidekoper said
the American officers failed to profit by
the experiences by the British, French
and Germans and were "concocted and
cooked."

He also complained of
"queer staff work," also that "Gen.
Pershing did not select the ablest staff
officers."

LT. COL. ROOSEVELT
INDORSER IN NASSAU

North Hempstead and Oyster
Bay Committees Back As-
sembly Nomination.

Leut. Col. Theodore Roosevelt was
placed on the political path that his
father trod last night when he was for-
mally indorsed for the nomination for
the Assembly in the Second district of
Nassau county at a meeting of the Re-
publican town committee of North
Hempstead and Oyster Bay. These two
towns are the political units of the district.

Chairman Byron C. Gould was in-
structed to notify the young man, who
was said to be at his home in Oyster
Bay. Although from there it is fourteen
miles to Mineola, where the committee
was in session, it was less than twenty-
five minutes when his motor drew up
in front of the door.

In a brief speech the Lieutenant-Colonel
said he was grateful for the honor
and hoped he would prove worthy. He
was particularly glad to start his public
career in the district where he was
born and cast his first vote. He was
glad to be a part of the political family
of the county, and hoped they would
always consider him in that light.

He paid a tribute to Assemblyman
Franklin A. Coles, who had stepped
aside in his favor.

Surrogate Leon D. Howell predicted a
brilliant future for Lieut. Col. Roosevelt
and expressed the hope that he would
win as high honor as his father.

Another son of an illustrious sire was
started on a political career when
Robert L. Bacon, son of the late Col.
Bart Bacon, Ambassador to France,
was indorsed for member of the Re-
publican State committee from the
Second Nassau district. He will not be
elected until the new State committee
is chosen at the Presidential primaries
in April.

SAYS SELFISHNESS
IS CHIEF WAR CAUSE

Underwood Believes League
Will Prevent Incentive.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Characterizing
the League of Nations as a practical
step toward world peace involving no
sacrifice of national sovereignty, Sena-
tor Underwood (Alabama) urged in the
Senate to-day acceptance of the League
covenant without amendment or reservation.

"The great cause of war," he said,
"may be paraphrased in two words—
'national selfishness.' Until the civilization
of the world is prepared to de-throne
its own selfish ideals and to recognize
the rights of other peoples, the inherent
causes of war must continue to exist."

"I am not prepared to say that the
adoption of the present treaty carries
within itself the elimination of these
causes of war, but I do say that within
the folds of this treaty we find an agree-
ment between the great nations of the
world that probably will in the future
carry the questions of national dispute
to a court of final arbitration and in
many if not most instances avoid the
horrors and injustices of war."

"It is not the organization of the
league as a super-government, I feel
that there is no need to fear the
dangerous surrender of any of the fun-
damental principles and rights of the
American people. Therefore I am will-
ing to take it and try it."

"A vital principle that we are asked
to agree to is that all of the members
of the league shall submit differences
between them that are not capable of
being settled by negotiation before a
tribunal, and after entering into the ar-
bitration they are required to abide by
the award."

"But the greatest principle of the
league tending to keep the peace of the
world is that which declares that 'the
high contracting parties to this treaty
shall undertake to respect and preserve
against external aggression the political
independence and the territorial in-
tegrity of every member of the league.'"

Prevent the incentive for war growing
out of a selfish desire for aggression, as
the overbearing force of this covenant
will do, and few actual causes of war
will remain that cannot without diffi-
culty or danger be submitted to the
high court of arbitration."

Politician Gets Five Years.
CINCINNATI, July 15.—J. Herman
Dierkes, formerly one of this city's prom-
inent Democratic leaders and who was
convicted some weeks ago of having
violated the Espionage act, was sen-
tenced in the United States Court here
to-day to five years in the Federal peni-
tentiary at Atlanta.

RAIL CONTROL DEAD ISSUE, SAYS ESCH

Proposal Not to Be Discussed
at House Committee
Hearings.

SENTIMENT AGAINST IT

Good Results of War Experi-
ment to Be Retained, Chair-
man Declares.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Discussion of
Government ownership probably will not
play an important part in deliberations
on railroad legislation by the House
Committee on Interstate and Foreign
Commerce, nor will the advisability of a
five year extension of Federal control be
considered.

Chairman Esch (Wis.), in discussing
the probable scope of the hearings at the
opening session to-day made this clear,
taking the position that the ob-
vious public sentiment against Govern-
ment ownership together with the an-
nounced decision of the President to turn
the roads back to private control Janu-
ary 1 virtually would eliminate these
questions from consideration.

Interstate Commerce Commissioner
Clark appeared before the committee at
its opening session commencing an anal-
ysis of the Esch bill section by section
and showing the bearing the new parts
would have on existing law. Mr. Clark
will continue to-morrow.

"Following Mr. Clark's analysis of
the bill," Mr. Esch said at the close of
the session, "interrogations by members
will develop the scope of the inquiry.
In view of the President's plan to turn
back the roads January 1 the original
proposal to continue government control
for five years need not come in for
much discussion, and with the public so
generally and obviously opposed to Gov-
ernment ownership of the roads the
question of the bill need not feel con-
strained to spend much time on that
question."

"The conditions upon which the roads
should be turned back as indicated ten-
tatively in the bill by the committee
will be most thoroughly considered. The
provision of the bill which seeks to re-
tain proved benefits discovered in the
extension of Government control will be
carefully analyzed. These include
provisions for extending the power of
the Interstate Commerce Commission
over the issuance of stocks and bonds
and certificates of convenience, and ne-
cessary which will be required before a
common carrier could construct an ex-
tension or parallel another line indepen-
dently of the Federal Board for voca-
tional education, which includes three
Cabinet members; that the board had
told the Appropriations Committee that
they did not know how much money they
might need before the end of the current
fiscal year, and that the committee had
clearly shown a disposition to let the
board have what it wanted and to sup-
plement such figures by deficiency ap-
propriations when the necessity arose."

Debate Becomes Political.
Debate on the bill took on its political
tinges at the outset when the Democrats
tried to force a motion to pass the bill
over the President's veto, seeking by this
means to sustain the attempt of the
President to put the Republican Con-
gress in a position of skirting an ap-
propriation for wounded soldiers. This
motion was defeated by a special rule
calling for consideration of a new sundry
bill containing a rehabilitation in-
crease of \$5,000,000, as demanded by the
President and in other respects identical
with the vetoed measure.

Debate on the rehabilitation item it-
self disclosed the political nature of the
President's move, which clearly shows
that the Appropriations Committee had
recommended and Congress had approved
in the previous bill all the money then
needed for the rehabilitation work, and
that the President's move was a purely
political device to embarrass the Republi-
can majority.

"Lack of such regulation in the past
has brought about much wasteful com-
petition and has caused a number of
financial wrecks."

HUGE SHIP LOSS IN FLOODS.

Many Cattle Destroyed Also in
Buenos Ayres Province.

Buenos Ayres, July 15.—Government
reports show that 1,000,000 sheep and
100,000 cattle have been drowned in
floods in the southern part of Buenos
Ayres province. The railways and
telegraphic communication have been in-
terrupted and several sections in that
region have been completely isolated
for more than a week from this cause.
The floods were due to a month of the
heaviest rainfall ever recorded here.

Madden on War Path.

Explanations of the committee were
satisfactory to the House and the mea-
sure making available \$12,000,000 for
rehabilitation work would have been
passed early in the afternoon had not
Chairman Good trumped on the feel-
ings of Mr. Madden when the latter
sought to interrupt for a question. Mad-
den's revenge came when unanimous
consent was asked in effect to pass the

HOUSE IN TANGLE OVER VETOED BILL

Republicans Defeat Effort to
Exploit Wounded Soldiers
by Politicians.

FINAL ACTION DELAYED

Desire to Make Capital Seen in
Wilson's Refusal to Sign
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Despite the desire of the Republican
majority to accede to the President's
demands for hitherto unasked increases
in the appropriations made available
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nority Leader Clark (Mo.), aided by a
split fight against Chairman Good (Ia.)

attempt to pass the bill. The measure
was identified as Anthony W. Holfelner,
a second year medical student whose
parents live in Buffalo, N. Y. The iden-
tification, according to the police, was
made by Harry E. Berger, a former
roommate of Holfelner's.

The police also announced that they
had found in the man's room in West
Philadelphia jewelry, clothing, cameras
and other articles which they valued at
about \$2,000, and which, they said, led to
the belief that he was implicated in the
robbery of other fraternity and boarding
houses in the vicinity of the University
of Pennsylvania.

Holfelner, who was 26 years old,
had spent two years in the medical
school of the university and was rated
a good student. He was to have con-
tinued his studies this fall.

The killing of the young man was
surrounded by sensational circumstances.
Prof. Schappelle, who is assistant
professor of romance languages at the
university, was awakened by a student
who said he heard some one walking in
the hall. Prof. Schappelle, who has
just begun big game in different parts
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gun and pistol, obtained a weapon from
a drawer and started to investigate the
darkened hall. His face was partly
covered by a handkerchief. When the
young man saw Prof. Schappelle he
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fessor's reply was a bullet which went
through the masked man below the
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gered across the street and died on a
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Prof. Schappelle was arrested and
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technical charge of manslaughter.

Girl "Ice-man's" Father Held.

Two agents of the Children's Society
who saw Pasque Sevin, 14, delivering
large cakes of ice from her father's ice
cellar in 100 East 102d street, lodged a
complaint charging the father with en-
dangering her life and health. Sevin
appeared in Harlem court yesterday
and was held for the Grand Jury. Pasque
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ONE BROTHER DROPS NAME OF BERGDOLL

Louis John to Be Called Berg-
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Petition in Court Terms His
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